

REMARKS

Introduction

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claim 2 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 18 and 20 have been previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimed. Therefore, claim 1 and 3-17 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. No new matter is being presented. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are requested.

Rejection under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 and 3-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0206503 to Kosoburd (hereinafter, "Kosoburd") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,778,475 to Izumi et al. (hereinafter, "Izumi"). In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this claim are earnestly solicited.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that dependent claim 2 recites allowable subject matter. To expedite the allowance of the present application, independent claims 1 and 13 are amended, as shown above, to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 13 are in condition for allowance. Additionally, Applicant submits that dependent claims 3-12 and 14-17, which each depend from one of independent claims 1 and 13, are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on an allowable claim. With these being all the claims presently pending in this application, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

Serial No.: 10/565,195
Docket No.: 102-1647T
Amendment dated November 25, 2011
Reply to the Office Action of July 25, 2011

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, there being no other objections or rejections, this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 502827.

Respectfully submitted,

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